

Oakland Army Base, Storehouse
(Building No. 88)
Buna Street at Baku Street
Oakland
Alameda County
California

HAER No. CA-125-F

HAER
CAL
1-OAK,
12F-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

OAKLAND ARMY BASE, STOREHOUSE (Building No. 88)

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Location: Buna Street at Baku Street

Date of Construction: USGS Oakland West Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Northing 4184900, Easting 560150
1919, by Union Construction Company

Architect: Not known

Contractor: Contemporary buildings on OARB were constructed by builders, subcontractors and suppliers in the San Francisco Bay area. Although no specific records exist for this structure, it is likely that similar procedures were followed during its construction.

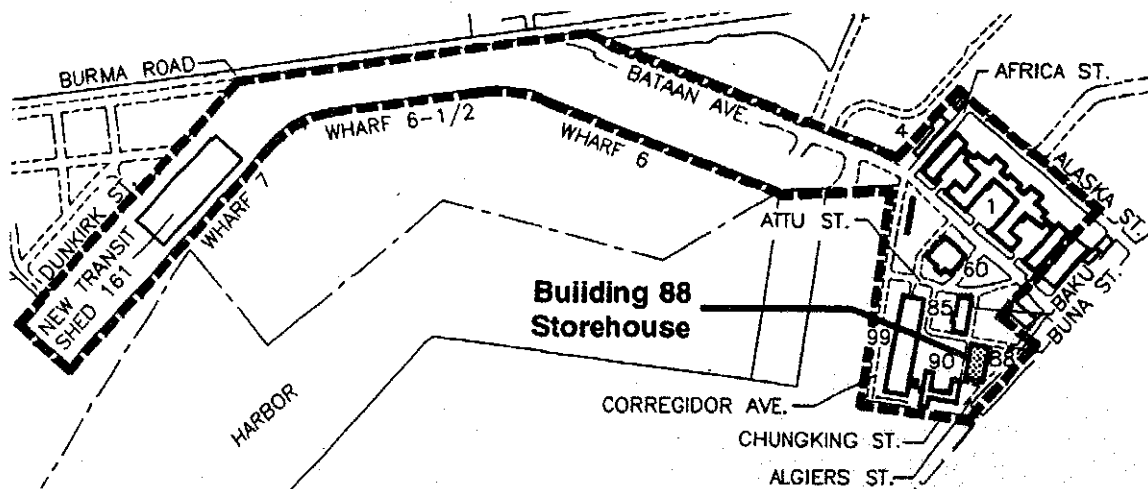
Present Owner and Occupant: Military Traffic Management Command, Western Area
Oakland Army Base, CA 94626-5000

Original Use: The building's original owner was the Union Construction Company, who erected the structure in 1919 on land leased from the City of Oakland. The building was used for a pattern shop (first floor) and mold loft (second floor). The building was later owned by Pacific Coast Engineering Company. In 1933, it was sold to the City of Oakland; the Port Commission controlled the building. The U.S. Army purchased the land and Building 88 in January 1941.

Present Use: Storehouse

Significance: Building 88 was used in support of Oakland Army Base's World War II mission.

Original Plans: No As-Built drawings exist. However, construction drawings for the Army's renovation were located in the OARB Engineering Office.



Alterations: According to the 1941 appraisal by E.E. Malloy of "lands and structures known as 'Oakland Port of Embarkation' located [in] Oakland, California," when originally constructed in 1919, the building was a two story frame structure with a composition roof and wood floors. However, there is no photographic evidence to support this fact. Mr. Malloy's report adds that in 1935, the Port Commission removed the second floor of the structure, giving it a hip roof. It is highly likely that additional remodeling has taken place in Building 88 over the 76-year life span of the structure.

I. GENERAL STATEMENT

Architectural Character. Although the building was constructed in 1919, its many significant alterations have resulted in a structure more representative of the temporary wood storage facilities used on this Installation and other military bases from the World War II era. One feature uncharacteristic of the period is the hip roof. It has a variation of a gambrel hip roof instead of the low or medium slope gable roofs most frequently seen on the Installation (*Photographs CA-125-F-1 and F-4*).

Condition of Fabric. Building 88 is generally in good condition.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTERIOR

Overall Dimensions. Building 88 is rectangular in shape, and including 2,300 square feet of mezzanines, encloses 11,134 square feet of floor area. The overall dimensions are 146'-6" by 76'-0" (*Photographs CA-125F-2 and F-3*).

Foundations. The building is founded on poured concrete foundations.

Walls. Walls are framed with wood stud framing on timber sills and diagonal wood sheathing. The original 1" x 8" wood siding on this structure was covered over by plywood siding installed in recent times. The entire exterior building was repainted in 1993.

Structural System. This storehouse is of timber frame construction.

Porches, Stoops, Balconies. None.

Chimneys. None.

Openings. Fixed, metal frame windows are used throughout the building. It is not known if these are original elements dating to the time of original construction. A 1942 photograph of this structure indicates that a sliding wood door existed on the south side. This has been replaced by a standard double swinging door. A 15' wide sliding wood door still exists on the building's north side (*Photograph CA-125-F-6*).

Roof. The roof is surfaced with built-up bituminous roofing on low slope areas; brown asphalt shingles are on steep slopes. Roof pitches are 1-1/2 and 6 in 12, respectively.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERIOR

Floor Plans. The ground floor level of Building 88 is open with the exception of offices and restroom facilities in the southwest corner. A mezzanine level above these enclosed rooms provides additional storage space, as does a second mezzanine level in the southeast corner (*Photograph CA-125-F-5*).

Stairways. Two interior wooden stairways access the mezzanine levels.

Flooring. The main floor is concrete; the mezzanine floor is concrete and wood.

Wall and Ceiling Finishes. The interior walls are unfinished. The ceiling's wooden truss system is exposed. The latter was installed sometime in 1935 when the City of Oakland removed the structure's second floor.

Openings. Interior doors are standard wood hollow core construction.

Decorative Features and Trims. No distinctive decorative features are visible on either the interior or exterior of the structure.

Hardware. No notable hardware.

Mechanical Equipment. Gas space heaters were installed during the initial renovation by the U.S. Army. These have subsequently been replaced with electric heaters. The building was also equipped with a 30 gallon hot water All plumbing and lighting fixtures have been replaced over time.

Original Furnishings. None.

IV. SITE

General Setting and Orientation. Building 88 is located in the mixed land use area south of the Post Headquarters Building. To the south and west are port facilities operated by Port of Oakland. Maritime Street, a main surface transportation artery, borders this mixed land use area to the east.

Historic Landscaping Design. No plant material exists in the vicinity of Building 88.

Outbuildings. None.

V. SOURCES

Architectural Drawings. No As-Built drawings exist for Building 88, however a Revised As-Built was located in the files of the OARB Engineering Office. Drawing #33-02-86 from File No. 184-25-147, dated 2 March 1972, depicts plans, elevations, sections and details for the renovation of the building by the Army. An additional, unnumbered and undated drawing was also found showing the floor plan, elevations, and lighting plan for the building. This drawing appears to be from the same period.

Early Views. The contractor's "Completion Report" includes a photograph of Buildings 85, 88, and 90, dated March 13, 1942 (*Photograph CA-125-10*).